

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image sensing apparatus which generates image data and authentication data necessary for a process of authenticating whether the image data is altered,
5 wherein key data necessary to generate the authentication data is erased in accordance with a predetermined condition.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the key data is erased when a user turns off a power supply
10 of the image sensing apparatus.
3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the key data is generated when a user turns on the power supply of the image sensing apparatus.
4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
15 key data is erased when a user turns off a function of generating the authentication data.
5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the key data is generated when a user turns on the function of generating the authentication data.
- 20 6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the key data is erased when a plurality of image data are saved.
7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the key data is generated when first image data is
25 generated.
8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the key data is erased when one image data is saved.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the key data is generated when one image data is generated.

10. An image sensing apparatus which generates image data and authentication data necessary for a process of 5 authenticating whether the image data is altered,

wherein generation of key data necessary to generate the authentication data is inhibited when a mode in which a set value in said image sensing apparatus is adjusted is to be turned on.

10 11. An image sensing apparatus having image sensing unit, comprising:

storage unit for storing image data obtained by image sensing by said image sensing unit in a predetermined storage medium;

15 key data generating unit for generating key data necessary to generate authentication data to be added to image data to be stored, on the basis of prestored original data; and

control unit for controlling an existing period 20 of the key data generated by said key data generating unit.

12. An image sensing apparatus which compression-codes an image sensed by image sensing unit, and stores the compression-coded image in a 25 predetermined detachable storage medium, and which can communicate with an external apparatus, comprising:

authentication data adding unit for adding, to

sensed image data, authentication data for authenticating whether the sensed image data is altered, when the sensed image data is stored in said storage medium; and

5 setting unit for setting an existing period of key data necessary to generate the authentication data.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said setting unit erases the key data during a period in which said image sensing apparatus can communicate with
10 said external apparatus.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said setting unit generates the key data when a power supply of said image sensing apparatus is turned on, and erases the key data when the power supply is turned
15 off.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said setting unit generates the key data when a user makes a function of generating the authentication data valid, and erases the key data when a user invalidates the
20 function.

16. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said setting unit generates the key data immediately before one image data is saved, and erases the key data when the saving is completed.

25 17. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said setting unit generates the key data immediately before first image data of a plurality of image data is saved,

and rases the key data when the saving of the first image is completed.